

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01134 251100Z

43

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO COMMANDANT NWC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 297

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 1134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, NG

SUBJ: VISIT OF NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE TO NIAMEY APRIL 23-25

REF: AMBASSADOR LEONHART LETTER MARCH 6, 1975

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR
LEONHART AT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE:

1. THIS IS REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 6 WHICH HAS JUST
REACHED US. BECAUSE OF POUCH DELAYS, I AM RESPONDING BY
CABLE AND SUGGEST FUTURE MESSAGES BE EXCHANGED IN SAME
CHANNEL.
2. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A MINI-EMBASSY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO
VISIT OF NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE APRIL 23-25. WE THINK YOU ARE
COMING TO THE RIGHT COUNTRY TO GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEMS
OF A DESPERATELY POOR COUNTRY AS IT TRIES TO RECOVER FROM
THE DROUGHT AND INTO THE POLICY CHALLENGES THIS POSES FOR THE
US. HAVING MADE SUCH TRIP, I AM CONFIDENT THAT STUDY
GROUP WILL TAKE IN ITS STRIDE WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES THEY MAY
ENCOUNTER DUE TO OUR LIMITED RESOURCES.
3. TO MOVE ALONG PLANNING FOR VISIT, HERewith SOME COMMENTS ON
NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS IN YOUR LETTER:

(1) YOUR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING BRIEFINGS ARE NOTED. WE
WILL TRY TO AVOID THE BOILER PLATE AND I DO NOT THINK GON WILL
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 01134 251100Z

BURDEN YOU WITH ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTS, ETC. THEY DON'T HAVE

ANY.

(2) WE HAVE BEEN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR YOUR VISIT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND WE THINK WE HAVE PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT TO ADDRESS STUDY GROUP PROVIDED HE IS IN TOWN. FYI. HE TRAVELS CONSTANTLY. END FYI. WE ARE ALSO THINKING OF GETTING VICE PRESIDENT TO TALK ON DEVELOPMENT AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTER.

(3) I WILL, OF COURSE, BE DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH GROUP AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST BRIEFING SESSION WITH IT.

(4) WE ARE PLANNING A VISIT OUT OF NIAMEY TO SITE WHICH WILL GIVE STUDY GROUP SOME IMPRESSION OF SAHEL TERRAIN, RELATED ECOLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AND GON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. INCIDENTALLY, IT WILL BE VERY HOT AND NONE OF BUSES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE ARE AIR CONDITIONED.

(5) YOUR POINT REGARDING SMALLER RATHER THAN LARGER SOCIA OCCASIONS IS NOTED. IN PRINCIPLE, I AGREE. IN PRACTICE, THE MAY BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE A) THERE ARE VERY FEW NIGERIENS WHO SPEAK ENGLISH AND B) OUR RESOURCES TO HOST SMALL SOCIAL EVENTS ARE LIMITED. WE WILL DO OUR BEST. IN THIS CONNECTIONN STUDY GROUP SHOULD BRING THEIR BATHING SUITS.

3. IN SUMMARY, I THINK WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A VISIT THAT AILL BE USEFUL AND INTERESTING AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO PROBLEMS WHICH BOTH WE AND THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES FACE. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED ON SCHEDULE AS IT TAKES SHAPE. MEANWHILE, APPRECIATE KNOWING WHEREABOUTS OF MATERIALS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ARE ON THEIR WAY. WE NEED THESE URGENTLY TO BRIEF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. WARM REGARDS.HECK

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